



REPOWER OUR SCHOOLS

03/07/2016

To: Durham Elected Officials,

I will help lead the way to a renewable energy future. It is time to advance the education and health of our children and community.

Please continue energy efficiency improvements for all Durham Public Schools, and require all new school buildings designs to be net-zero or net-positive, starting with the schools in the 2016 bond.

Lets start now by investing in a solar array to power a group of schools. I want my school to be among the first to participate in this type of project. Several commercial-scale projects could power multiple DPS schools with 100% solar electricity and save the district money upon their installation. Lets also begin developing a strategic energy management plan for long-term energy management. With a plan, we can effectively and efficiently implement cost-saving measures.

As concerned member of the Durham Public Schools community, I support your strong commitment to the heath and sustainability of our schools. Solar energy saves money, protects our children's health. Children exposed to these concepts are better prepared for jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Thank you for your leadership in taking these opportunities to create the schools our children deserve. With these cost-saving measures I believe these investments will reap fiscal benefits to sustain continual improvements over the years to come. My hope is that these extra funds be allocated to our students, teachers, and families.

Lastly, I hope to see the Durham Public Schools' strategic energy management plan set a goal to reduce the district's energy use by 25% and a plan for a solar pilot project.

Thank you,
Kristi Wescott

Hillandale Elementary School
PTA President 2015-16